

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Washington, DC 20405

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FIRMR BULLETIN C-20

TO: Heads of Federal agencies

SUBJECT: National security and emergency preparedness (NSEP)
telecommunications

1. Purpose. This bulletin provides general information and guidance to Federal agencies on how GSA implements its NSEP telecommunications responsibilities.

2. Expiration date. This bulletin contains information of a continuing nature and will remain in effect until canceled.

3. Contents.

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4. Related material.

- a. FIRMR Parts 201-18 and 201-24
- b. FIRMR Bulletins C-16 and C-19
- c. Executive Order 12472

5. Information and assistance.

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6. Definitions.

"Federal Telecommunications System" means the telecommunications networks, services, and programs GSA provides for Federal agencies. The FTS includes FTS2000 long distance services and consolidated local telecommunications services.

7. Acronyms.

EO Executive Order
FIP Federal Information Processing
FTS Federal Telecommunications System
NCS National Communications System
NSEP National Security Emergency Preparedness
OMB Office of Management and Budget

8. Discussion.

a. Executive Order 12472 dated April 3, 1984, consolidated several directives covering NSEP telecommunications into a comprehensive document explaining the assignment of responsibilities to Federal agencies for coordinating the planning and provision of NSEP telecommunications. The fundamental NSEP objective is to ensure that the Federal Government has telecommunications services that will function under all conditions, including emergency situations.

b. EO 12472 assigns specific NSEP communications responsibilities to most Federal agencies and general responsibilities to other agencies and governmental entities, including the NCS, OMB, and GSA.

c. FTS provides local, long distance, and special telecommunications services to Federal agencies. EO 12472 requires that GSA ensure that Federally owned or managed domestic telecommunications facilities and services meet the NSEP requirements of the Federal departments, agencies, and entities.

9. Program description.

a. The FTS2000 network has the following general design attributes to support the basic NSEP requirements of Federal agencies:

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- (1) Automatic alternate routing of long distance traffic and diversity of vendors, carrier's points of presence, and technology.
- (2) Protection from surges in demand in the public network by a separate network and separate facilities.
- (3) Support for the Federal Secure Telephone Service (FSTS).
- (4) Link protection on satellite circuits and microwave links in defined high-risk areas.
- (5) Special planning and operations capabilities available at GSA zone and regional offices in support of recovery from natural disasters and other emergencies.
- (6) Restoration priorities on a select number of inter-machine trunk groups and on access line groups when requested by any Federal agency. FTS local and long distance services participate in the Telecommunications Service Priority system for providing and restoring telecommunications during emergencies.

b. GSA requires that the cost for agency-unique NSEP requirements be borne by the agency requesting the service.

10. Agency responsibilities.

a. General. Agencies are responsible for determining their current NSEP telecommunications requirements and ensuring that Federally owned or managed domestic telecommunications facilities and services under an agency's control meet the NSEP requirements of that agency.

b. NSEP responsibilities of users of FTS. As stated in EO 12472, agencies need to prepare plans, policies, and procedures to support NSEP mission requirements, including a description of those requirements that need to be met by FTS programs and services. Plans for NSEP shall be included within the 5-year plan each agency sends to GSA as required by FIRMR Part 201-18.

11. GSA responsibilities. Except as otherwise assigned, the Administrator of GSA, in accordance with policy guidance provided by the Director of OMB, is responsible for ensuring that Federally owned or managed domestic telecommunications facilities

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and services meet the NSEP requirements of the Federal civil departments, agencies, and entities. GSA fulfills these responsibilities by providing services, equipment, and facilities in support of various programs and emergency telecommunications services.

12. Cancellation. FIRMR Bulletin 54 is canceled.

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